

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2021***

***Select Board Present: Betsy Coes, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu  
Others Include: Water Sewer District & Town Residents***

***Call to order at 7:00 pm.***

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

School Tax Paid	10/08/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$418,410.00
Checks Dated	04/08/21:	Accounts Payable Manifest	\$ 9,478.91
Checks Dated	10/15/21:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 20,845.57

Ray Buxton, from the Water Sewer Department, asked if the Board decided how they would distribute the GOEFFR funds. Michael replied that they had not as he is still inquiring how the GOEFFR funds may be used. Michael does not expect it to be a problem for the Water/Sewer District (WD) to utilize the funds but does not make any guarantees. Michael believes the best time to decide on the funds would be during the budget discussions. If the Fire Department decides to move forward on the expansion project, and if it is allowable under the GOEFFR funds, then the expansion would be a proper usage of the funds. If it is not allowed, and there's a need for it, then the Board would need to consider it in the context of their overall budget. The Board will need to review the future needs of the Town before arbitrarily handing out money especially since the GOEFFR money is geared towards capital allocation. Michael believes the WD is an effective usage of the funds. He would like to have discussions with the other departments during the budget session to see if other needs could be fulfilled by these funds. Michael posed the question of the need for new cruisers, or other public safety equipment that may be needed that he is not yet aware of, and will not know, until the Board has a budget discussion with each of the department heads.

Jacqui said that they have informed the departments of the requests twice, and if the departments wanted to use the funds, they should have reached out to the Board; only the Road Agent and Water District have done so. Jacqui asked how the Board would decide which department should have access to the funds.

Michael wants to know each departments' priorities to help decide which items should have precedence to the funds.

Wendy asked if the town has a Capital Investment committee. Michael informed her that the Town does not; typically, these are worked through the Planning Board. There has been discussion at the Planning Board to revisit the Capital Investment plan. The Town had an advisory committee around fifteen years ago that worked with the departments to identify long term capital needs. They planned the purchase of police cruisers and developed a 20-year paving plan that the Town

is still in operating on. Since the advisory committee went away, there has not been much capital planning.

Betsy mentioned that in the past, they would have a round table of department heads who would attend and discuss the needs and plans for the Town.

Ray informed the board that the wells need to be completed soon and cannot be held off for a year or two. They asked the board if it was okay to have the work done prior to a decision on the GOEFFR funds. The board affirmed.

Ray also mentioned that the WD asked the state for a grant for a feasible assessment to see if it would benefit the town to connect with Newmarket's water system.

Ray asked if board decided about what to do with 75 Main Street. Michael suggested the WD write a proposal to discuss with the Board with the intent of issuing a Warrant Article to be voted on in March. If the warrant article gets rejected the board can work with the WD for a lease extension, if needed.

Jacqui requested a written timeline of upcoming projects to be prepared by the Water District. The Board acknowledged an American Red Cross request for additional funds. The Board agreed to wait until the end of the year to determine if, and to which organization, they would like to provide additional funds.

Michael opened the meeting to discussions by those attending.

Stacy Grella asked for update on the Police Chief selection.

Michael informed everyone that a committee was formed. After several meetings, the committee met with the Board and suggested three candidates. The Board sent out questions to be answered by those candidates, performed interviews last week, and now the Board will be meeting in a non-public session tonight to discuss further. Once a decision is made, a background check will then need to be completed. The Board believes it will be late November or early December before a Chief is in place.

One resident brought up a discussion on the recent protests that have been taking place on Hemlock Court. He asked if the ordinances would be enforced.

Michael replied that the ordinance was put in place when the picketing was very robust. Michael said that he has not been involved in the enforcing of the ordinances, nor has the board; it is enforced by the police. This is the first formal discussion that has come before the Board since then.

Lt. O'brien asked to address the matter. She stated that the Police Department (PD) is thinking of the safety of its residents. She has been in contact with the Attorney General's Office and State Police. Many people are asking why the Police department has not been enforcing the ordinance or making arrests. She specified that the State does not have a disturbing the peace law, just

disorderly conduct. The Town does not have a lot of resources and the department is usually limited to one person on a shift at a time. When dealing with the protest last year, the PD had a huge backing by the State police. These protests are now more of a brigade by staying in their cars. The PD would need to have a reason to stop them that would stand up in court.

Lt. O'Brien continued by saying that this Town was involved in over fifteen parades in the past couple of years for various birthdays, graduations etc. Some of these involved the fire and police departments with sirens and horns. This would all be used against the Town in court. There is a fine line; the Police need to recognize free speech, while ensuring the safety of residents. She asked for residents to not instigate the situation, nor block them from leaving. Sirens are a violation of state laws, so in those cases, they would be able to issue a warning or citation. If you need to call the police due to the protests, please call the Newmarket dispatch at 603-659-6636, not 911. If you do make a report, you may be considered a witness, so be cognizant that your testimony may be needed. She concluded by saying that she understands the residents' frustration.

Michael stated for the record, that he has been avoiding conflict and impropriety. He has not spoken with the Police department, State Police or Attorney General on this matter due to his relationship with the Governor since this matter came up last year. Michael was emphatic that he had no role in any conversations with law enforcement.

Tom Grella expressed his concern and displeasure with the length of time it has taken to choose a chief of police. He is disappointed to see this Town in a position where it has taken seven months to find a replacement. He expressed that it is self-inflicted. The Board may have had a great plan, but it was poorly executed. He commended the Lieutenant for taking on the additional responsibilities. He believes with her leaving it places our Town in a very dangerous situation. He does hope the Board expedites the remaining process as it may take as long as January to see a new Chief. He feels the Town should not have waited this long to fill the position.

Another resident asked to place the speed sign back at the bottom of the hill on Rt. 85. Lt O'Brien stated that she receives calls from many residents to have it placed on their streets. She will have Rt. 85 added back to the list but pointed out that there are other streets in line on the list. The Town of Newmarket is borrowing one of the radar signs for a couple of weeks.

Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy, to approve the 9/2/21 Select Board Meeting Minutes, as drafted. All were in favor and the motion carried.

At 7:54pm, The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Sununu, seconded by Select Board Coes and in accordance with RSA91-A:3 (II) (a), RSA91-A:3 (II) (b), RSA91-A:3 entered a non-public session for purpose of the Police Chief Selection. A motion to leave the non-public session was made by Select Board Coes and seconded by Select Board Sununu. By roll call vote the Board passed the motion: Coes-Affirmative; Silvani-Affirmative; Sununu-Affirmative. The motion was passed and at 8:21 a public session reconvened.

At 8:21pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien